

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 207431 TOSEC 100350

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 207431 TOSEC 100350

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BUCHAREST 4226 ACTION SECSTATE INFO SECDEF AND DOD  
27 AUG 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T BUCHAREST 4226

EXDIS

SEC DEF FOR AKALOVSKY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, RO  
SUBJ: MILITARY SALES AND GENERAL WEYAND'S VISIT

REFS: A. STATE 200027 (221440Z AUG 75)  
B. BUCHAREST 3953 (131505Z AUG 75)

1. EVEN IN DIPLOMACY THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN THE DIRECT  
APPROACH IS THE BEST APPROACH. THUS I BELIEVE THAT IF  
THE DECISION HAS NOW BEEN MADE THAT WE ARE NOT IN A POSI-  
TION "AT THIS TIME" (LINE 5 REF A) TO SELL TO THE GOR ANY  
MILITARY HARDWARE INCLUDING "NON-LETHAL" EQUIPMENT, OTHER THAN  
MILITARY RELATED ITEMS FOR

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USE IN SPACE RELATED ACTIVITIES, THEN VALOR IS THE BETTER PART

OF WISDOM AND WE HAD BETTER TELL THE ROMANIANS SO. POLITICAL, MILITARY AND LEGAL QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN MILITARY SALES TO A WARSAW PACT MEMBER SHOULD BE THE RATIONALE. I SEE NO BENEFIT TO BE DERIVED BY STRINGING THE GOR ALONG IF THE DECISION IS AS CLEAR-CUT AS REF A INDICATES. (I ASSUME INCIDENTALLY THAT MY SUGGESTION TO LEAVE THE DOOR AJAR FOR POSSIBLE SALE OF "NON-LETHAL" EQUIPMENT SIMPLY INVOLVED TOO MANY RISKS.)

2. HOW DO WE HANDLE THE SITUATION: FIRST, I THINK WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT GENERAL COMAN DID NOT PERSONALLY RAISE THE ISSUE DURING HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. ONE OF HIS ASSOCIATES DID, BOTH IN THE U.S. AND IN BUCHAREST. THIS IS A PREDICTABLE ROMANIAN BEHAVIOR PATTERN. IF THE ANSWER MAY BE NO; IT'S BETTER THAT A SUBORDINATE BE INFORMED. ERGO, A SUBORDINATE MAY PUT THE QUESTION IN THE FIRST INSTANCE ON THIS OCCASION AS WELL, ALTHOUGH GEN COMAN COULD RAISE THE ISSUE WITH GEN WEYAND DURING THEIR FIRST MEETING.

3. IN ANY CASE I THINK WE SHOULD BROACH THE SUBJECT. WHEN? I RECOMMEND THIS BE LEFT TO GEN WEYAND AND ME TO FIGURE OUT HERE, BUT IN ANY CASE IT SHOULD BE DONE PRIOR TO GEN WEYAND'S DEPARTURE. WHO SHOULD GIVE THE BAD NEWS? AGAIN, I RECOMMEND GEN WEYAND AND I WORK THIS OUT HERE. I LEAN TOWARD A SCENARIO WHERE WE WOULD HANDLE THE MATTER TOGETHER. I DO NOT SEE ANY PARTICULAR MERIT IN MY SIGNALING THE GOR IN ADVANCE ABOUT OUR NEGATIVE POSITION ON SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. THE ONLY EXCEPTION WOULD BE IF WE RECEIVED ANOTHER APPROACH FROM THEM IN WHICH CASE WE WOULD CONVEY THE SIGNALS. FINALLY, WITH WHOM DO WE RAISE THE SUBJECT? I COME DOWN HARD IN FAVOR OF DEALING DIRECTLY WITH GEN COMAN, IRRESPECTIVE OF SENSIBILITIES. HE IS THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICER; HE IS THE MAN WHO WILL HAVE TO TRANSMIT THE NEWS TO CEAUSESCU; AND I WANT TO MAKE VERY SURE HE GETS THE MESSAGE STRAIGHT.

4. I HAVE ONE REQUEST: I NEED PERTINENT BACKGROUND ON THE LEGAL QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN ANY SALES TO A WARSAW PACT MEMBER.

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5. I ALSO HAVE TWO RECOMMENDATIONS: THAT WE HAVE AUTHORIZATION PRIOR TO GEN WEYAND'S ARRIVAL TO INFORM THE GOR (SPECIFICALLY GEN COMAN IN THE FIRST INSTANCE) THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO MOVE AHEAD PROMPTLY ON THEIR REQUEST FOR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT, AT LEAST THE NON-CRYPTOGRAPHIC ELEMENT OF PACKAGE. WE SHOULD FISH OR CUT BAIT ON THIS MATTER WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. I RECOMMEND THAT WE FISH. INCIDENTALLY, WE ARE STILL

WAITING FOR PROMISED INFORMATION FROM BGEN ADAMS (PARA 3,  
REF B) ON THIS SUBJECT. I ALSO RECOMMEND THAT WE HAVE  
SOMETHING MORE CONCRETE TO SAY TO ROMANIANS THAN FACT WE  
ARE QTE GIVING SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION UNQTE TO THEIR  
REQUEST FOR MILITARY-RELATED ITEMS FOR USE IN SPACE ACTIVI-  
TIES. IN THE CONTEXT WE NEED SOMETHING MORE THAN THAT  
PHRASE.  
BARNES

UNQUOTE. U INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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